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Democrats Delay Action On Heckler Nomination

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Senate Democrats blocked confirmation of Margaret M. Heckler as ambassador to Ireland yesterday in retaliation for Republican refusal to approve CIA counsel Stanley Sporkin as a federal judge.

The partisan standoff delayed Senate action on those nominations and several others until at least Monday.

Senate Minority Leader Robert C. Byrd (D-W.Va.) said there were no objections to Heckler's nomination among Democrats, but that the problem was the 17-month-old Sporkin nomination, "which is not being cleared by the other [Republican] side."

The Senate Judiciary Committee approved Sporkin's nomination Thursday. Majority Leader Robert J. Dole (R-Kan.) said he understands that Sporkin's confirmation now will be cleared.

Heckler was eased out of her post as head of the Department of Health and Human Services by President Reagan. Her successor, former Indiana governor Otis R. Bowen, was sworn in last night at a private ceremony in Indiana, an aide to Sen. Richard G. Lugar (R-Ind.) said. A public ceremony is expected later.